

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-13 (canceled)

1428. (currently amended) An article of manufacture comprising:

a grommet cap having a substantially planar top side and a substantially planar underside, the grommet cap comprising:

a flange extending to an outer edge of the grommet cap and having a dimension substantially larger than an aperture to be covered;

a shank depending from the substantially planar underside of the grommet cap and having an outer surface configured substantially in conformance with the size and shape of at least a substantial portion of an inner surface of the aperture to be covered;

a slot in the grommet cap extending through the flange to the outer edge of the grommet cap; and

a female receiver depending from the substantially planar underside of the grommet cap; and

a separable tab configured to fill the slot, the separable tab having a male connector, the male connector being dimensioned to fit at least partially into the female receiver such that the separable tab can be separated from the

grommet cap by removing with mild force the male connector out of the female receiver,

the separable tab being held under the grommet cap such that the separable tab may be downwardly pivoted away from the slot while the male connector continuously directly contacts the female receiver,

the separable tab being moveable into at least the following three positions:

a closed position in which the separable tab completely fills the slot and the male connector contacts the female receiver depending from the substantially planar underside of the grommet cap;

an open position in which the separable tab is downwardly pivoted out of contact with the slot, the male connector is spaced apart from the slot, and the male connector contacts the female receiver depending from the substantially planar underside of the grommet cap;

a separated position in which the separable tab is removed entirely from and does not contact the grommet cap.

1529. (currently amended) A separable tab and grommet cap combination comprising:

a grommet cap having a substantially planar top side and a substantially planar underside, the grommet cap comprising:

a flange extending to an outer edge of the grommet cap and having a dimension larger than an aperture to be covered;

a shank depending from the substantially planar underside of the grommet cap and having an outer surface configured substantially

in conformance with the size and shape of at least a substantial portion of an inner surface of the aperture to be covered;

a slot in the grommet cap extending through the flange to the outer edge of the grommet cap; and

a female receiver depending from the substantially planar underside of the grommet cap; and

a separable tab configured to fill at least a substantial portion of the slot, the separable tab having at least one male connector, the at least one male connector being dimensioned to fit at least partially into a portion of the female receiver in close proximity to the substantially planar underside of the cap such that the separable tab can be separated from the grommet cap by removing the at least one male connector out of the female receiver,

the separable tab being moveable into at least the following three positions:

a closed position in which the separable tab completely fills the slot and the at least one male connector contacts the female receiver under the substantially planar underside of the grommet cap;

an open position in which the at least one male connector is spaced apart from the slot and the separable tab is removably held under the substantially planar underside of the grommet cap by the female receiver; and

a separated position in which the separable tab is removed entirely from and does not contact the grommet cap.

Claims 16-20 (cancelled)*

*Previously misnumbered as Claims 30-34.

2135. (currently amended) The combination of claim 1529 wherein the separable tab is pivotable between the closed position and the open position.

2236. (currently amended) The combination of claim 1529 wherein the combination is made of non-conductive plastic.

2337. (currently amended) The combination of claim 1529 wherein the at least one male connector is substantially cylindrical.

2438. (currently amended) The combination of claim 1529 wherein the at least one male connector is formed as part of a bar extending transversely across an end of the removable tab.

2539. (currently amended) The combination of claim 1529 wherein in the open position the separable tab is positioned at least about ninety degrees away from its closed position.

2640. (currently amended) The combination of claim 1529 wherein the female receiver comprises means for receiving the male connector.

2741. (currently amended) The combination of claim 1529 wherein the at least one male connector comprises means for connecting the separable tab to the female receiver.

Claim 28 (cancelled)*

*previously misnumbered as Claim 42.

2943. (currently amended) The combination of claim 1529 wherein in the at least one male connector is holdable by the female receiver without sliding therebetween.

3044. (currently amended) The combination of claim 1529 wherein the separable tab is removable from the grommet cap with mild force.

Claims 31-32 (cancelled)*

*Previously misnumbered as Claims 45-46.

3347. (currently amended) The article of claim 1428, wherein in the open position the male connector is held in close proximity to the substantially planar underside of the grommet cap.

3448. (currently amended) The article of claim 1428 wherein the female receiver is configured to permit the male connector to touch the substantially planar underside of the grommet cap at a time when the male connector is at least partially inside the female receiver.

3549. (currently amended) The combination of claim 1529, wherein in the open position the female receiver permits the at least one male connector to contact the substantially planar underside of the grommet cap.

Claims 36-37 (cancelled)*

*Previously misnumbered as Claims 50-51.